

THE LIONS' ROAR

DECEMBER 2016 - JANUARY 2017


2017

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FIND OUT WHICH
ATHLETES ARE
MOVING TO THE
COLLEGIATE LEVEL
MICHIGAN TECH
PG. 8
HUSKIES

In
Devotion
REASSURANCE TO
THOSE WHO HAVE LOST
A LOVED ONE
PG. 10-11
Memory



STARBOY
STARBOY RECEIVES
SCATHING REVIEW
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Why wait to change your life 'till January 1st?

McKenzi Roe '17, Editor-in-Chief

Sure, Jan. 1 is the start of a new year, so why would it not be the perfect time to create a 'whole new you'? Making a list of New Year's resolutions is a popular tradition for people all over the country during the holiday season. There is something quite rewarding about making a list saying you will start going to the gym at least once a week, or promising that you will start calling your grandma everyday. Self-improvement, or at least the desire for it, is a common objective shared by all Americans. The real question is, however, how many people actually follow through with these resolutions? Better yet, why wait until the first of January to better your life?

Most people will go out and buy their gym memberships, but after a month they get 'too busy' and their gym bag will start to collect dust. Maybe they will call their grandma everyday for two weeks straight, until one day when their job gets in the way and they begin to use that as an excuse for not checking in on her. Most people hype up the idea of New Year's resolutions, when in reality only a small amount of people actually follow through with them. According to research conducted by the University of Scranton, only eight percent of people achieve their New Year's goals. Although the desire may be there, the motivation to follow through with these resolutions is obviously lacking.

The problem with the whole concept of New Year's resolutions lies behind one simple question: why do we feel the need to wait until the first of January to change our lives?

Our lists of resolutions grow more complicated each year as people tend to constantly make complex bucket lists or extreme makeovers. While their aspirations are appreciated, 'shooting for the sky' typically ends up being a formidable task, and most are unable to initially set launch. It is extremely necessary that we realize the importance of setting simple and tangible goals whilst also acknowledging the fact that we do not have to wait for the New Year for our dreams to take off. It all starts with you, and it can all start today.

If you truly want to make a positive change in your life, then you will realize that change can occur at any time and any place. January is not some magical month that will grant all your wishes and aspirations; it takes hard work, motivation and persistence, and it can happen during any day of the year.

So, instead of buying a gym membership, perhaps you start by cutting out soda and only drinking water. Start by calling your grandma at least once a week, or taking her out to dinner every few weeks. Most importantly, however, always remember that change does not have to come with the start of a new year; it can happen anywhere and anytime. It starts today, and it starts with that burning fire in the pit of your stomach that desires to be better. With the right mindset and positive ambition, that flame can ignite into something quite extraordinary, and it all starts with you.

*"You must live in the present, launch yourself on every wave, find your eternity in each moment. Fools stand on their island of opportunities and look toward another land. There is no other land; there is no other life but this."
- Henry David Thoreau*

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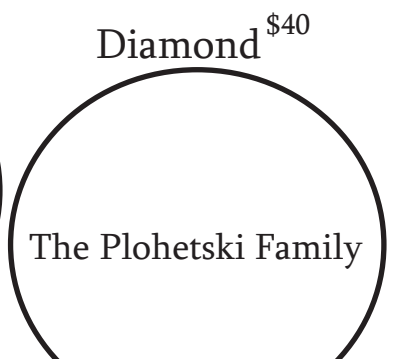
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Cover photo courtesy of Yana van Vlerken and teaser photos courtesy of sportslogos.net, celebrationtemplates.com and Nicholas Mojica.

TRUMP'S CABINET FILLS AS CLOCK TICKED TO INAUGURATION

Jared Perttunen '17, Managing Editor

As President, Donald Trump has been given the immense responsibility of appointing the members of his cabinet; the people who will be in charge of maintaining the various departments that keep our government running. While most of these individuals need to be approved by congress before taking office, it is reasonable to assume that these are likely going to be the next set of cabinet members in our government. A disclaimer: these are the secretaries in the cabinet like the Secretary of State, not the lower cabinet ranks such as White House Chief of Staff. They will be listed in order of presidential succession.



Photo courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.

Vice President: Gov. Mike Pence

Mike Pence is currently the acting Governor of Indiana and was a representative from the same state for 12 years. As well as Vice President, Pence will also become the President of the Senate. He will be responsible for presiding over and keeping order in the Senate, as well as breaking any ties that occur in Senate voting. Pence is expected to wield a comparatively large amount of power during his term due to President Trump's inexperience with public office.

Secretary of State: Rex Tillerson

Rex Tillerson is the outgoing chairman of the ExxonMobil oil company. The oil tycoon has 41 years experience in the business and has close business ties to several world leaders including Russian President Vladimir Putin. As Secretary of State, Tillerson has the responsibility of being the face of American diplomacy for the next four years. Tillerson has garnered scrutiny from many Republican senators for his lack of political experience and his links to Russian business, which may cause Congress to refuse his appointment to the cabinet.

Secretary of Treasury: Steven Mnuchin

Steven Mnuchin was Trump's campaign finance manager and former hedge funder for investment banking company Goldman Sachs. A Yale graduate, Mnuchin is well known for his maneuvering through the 2008 housing crash. As Secretary of Treasury, Mnuchin will be responsible for implementing Trump's simplified tax code, including some of the largest tax cuts in a decade. Mnuchin's plan is to reduce corporate tax rates from 35 percent to 15 percent. By cutting those taxes Mnuchin says, "We're going to create huge economic growth, and we'll have huge personal income. We're going to get to 15 percent and bring a lot of cash back into the U.S."

Secretary of Defense: Gen. James Mattis

James "Mad Dog" Mattis is a retired Marine Corps general who led combat troops in both Iraq and Afghanistan. Mattis stepped down from commander of U.S. central command in 2013. Mattis earned the nickname "Mad Dog" for his blunt remarks and aggressive personality and military tactics. When in charge of the Pentagon, Mattis has said his first priority would be to enact "New security architecture in the Middle East based on sound policy." Mattis' main focus for this new Middle East policy will be containing Iran which he views as, "A special case that must be dealt with as a threat to regional stability." Mattis will need a congressional waiver before being confirmed, due to a federal law preventing retired generals from becoming Secretary of Defense for seven years after retirement.



Photo courtesy of <http://colhi68.tripod.com/jimmattis.html>.

Attorney General: Sen. Jeff Sessions

Jeff Sessions is a four-term senator hailing from Alabama. Sessions has a long history associated with law, being an attorney himself for several years before becoming the Alabama state attorney general. Sessions was one of the few Republican senators to maintain his endorsement of Trump throughout the entire election and was indeed the first senator to endorse the president. As Attorney General, Sessions stresses he will follow with Trump's assertion of returning "law and order" to America.

Secretary of the Interior: Rep. Ryan Zinke

Ryan Zinke is a Montana congressmen currently serving his second term. Zinke is also a former Navy SEALs commander and a decorated Iraq combat veteran. He is a conservationist who has spoken in favor of protecting lands for recreational use. In contrast, he has also voted in favor of using federal land for oil and natural gas drilling projects. Zinke shares Trump's opposition to transferring federal land to the states and is expected to work on improving federal land development for the Trump administration.

Secretary of Commerce: Wilbur Ross

Wilbur Ross is a long time friend and supporter of Donald Trump and has a long history of successful business ventures. Ross is a billionaire investor who is best known for rapidly buying and selling failing steel and coal businesses. As a result of this investing strategy, he has been widely criticized for letting his business fail for his own profit. His history with Trump goes way back, helping him save his failing Taj Mahal casino in the 90s, and he is expected to help Trump protect American trade interests and grow the country's manufacturing.

Secretary of Labor: Andrew Puzder

Andrew Puzder is a multi-millionaire fast-food tycoon who operates several successful fast-food chains such as Harvey's and Carl's Jr. Puzder is a documented opponent of raising the federal minimum wage and is a critic of government regulation. Puzder has expressed displeasure with Obamacare, saying it is responsible for increasing healthcare costs. As head of the Labor Department, Puzder will be in charge of deregulating business and industries which will allow them to grow in America.



Secretary of Health and Human Services: Rep. Tom Price

Tom Price is a six term representative from Georgia, with a long legislative history of protecting the interests of the medical profession. As a congressman, Price has helped pass several legislation designed to promote the financial interests of the medical profession. For example, he sponsored a 2015 bill that would limit efforts to restrict doctors pay for medical services. He also has tried to block efforts to scale back payments for expensive chemotherapy treatments. As Secretary of Health, Price will be responsible for scaling back Obamacare, a program of which he has been a long time critic.

Photo courtesy of the district office of Tom Price.

*Continued on page 4...

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*...Continued from page 3

Secretary of Housing and Urban Development: Dr. Ben Carson

Ben Carson is a retired neurosurgeon and former 2016 presidential candidate. Carson has a history of criticizing government welfare and firmly believes that it should be the responsibility of private charities to shoulder welfare needs. Carson is famous for stating that he is unfit to hold public office given his lack of experience. Despite this, he was chosen to head the Housing and Urban Development Department because of his previous experience of living in urban poverty. He was born and raised in Detroit for a time, before moving to Boston. He has stressed in the past that it is individual effort, not government programs, that gets people out of poverty. Because of this, Carson is expected to eliminate many government welfare programs that he says create "dependency."

Secretary of Transportation: Elaine Chao

Elaine Chao is the former Labor Secretary and wife of Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell. She became the first Asian-American woman to hold the position when she became George W. Bush's labor secretary in 2001 where she served until 2009. She is the daughter of a shipping magnate and has made over \$1 million by serving on several business boards such as Wells Fargo and News Corp. As Secretary of Transportation, Chao is expected to execute Trump's plan to invest in and improve upon American infrastructure—a key campaign promise that helped Trump get elected.



Photo courtesy of the United States Department of Labor

Secretary of Energy: Rick Perry

Rick Perry is currently the longest serving governor in Texas history. He has tried twice, unsuccessfully, to run for president and is also a former *Dancing with the Stars* contestant. In a 2011 presidential debate, Perry struggled to recall he wished to eliminate the Department of Energy, among other departments, in its entirety. Perry, along with several others in Trump's cabinet, is a climate change skeptic. This suggests that as Secretary of Energy, Perry will favor benefitting the fossil fuels industry more than environmental concerns.

Secretary of Education: Betsy DeVos

Betsy DeVos is a billionaire lobbyist for school vouchers and is a supporter of common core education standards. Her appointment was criticized by Republicans before it was even announced, stating that her lobbying for charter school vouchers has been detrimental to public school systems. Critics also dislike how she supported common core education, something Trump himself campaigned against. As Secretary of Education, DeVos is expected to support school choice, a practice where parents choose which schools their children go to rather than having school districts organize students. As a result, charter schools will be favored as opposed to public education standards.

Secretary of Veterans Affairs: Dr. David Shulkin

David Shulkin is a board-certified internist, and was the chief executive or chief medical officer of several hospitals throughout his career. Notably Shulkin is not a veteran of the armed services, his appointment would mark the first time the V.A. wouldn't be run by a veteran. Shulkin is inheriting an agency wrought with inefficiency and scandal. Last year the V.A. was exposed for having severe inadequacies in regards to veterans healthcare. As the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, Shulkin will be responsible for turning the agency around and providing proper healthcare for all U.S. veterans.

Secretary of Homeland Security: Gen. John Kelly

John Kelly is a retired Marine Corps General who served a 45 year long career. Kelly stepped down in January 2016 from his position of Commander of U.S. Southern Command. Kelly has long warned about the lack of border security in America, and he is expected to enact Trump's plans for a more secure border, including building a border wall if need be. Kelly will also be expected to maintain the Guantanamo Bay prison complex, which may become a human rights issue of Trump's presidency.

*At press time on Jan. 20, President Trump has not selected a Secretary of Agriculture.



Photo courtesy of the U.S. office of foreign affairs

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LOOKING FOR WINTER FUN? LOOK NO FURTHER THAN RIGHT AROUND THE CORNER

Rebecca Menard '17, Student Life Editor

Do not waste away the winter months in the house complaining about the weather and thinking that there is nothing to do. Even though it may be cold, that does not have stop you from having fun. There are a lot of ways to spend these cold winter days. So, get out there. Do something unique or low-key, and get out of that winter funk.

Explore/Take Photos

Winter is a beautiful season, the glistening snow and shiny icicles everywhere can make for some pretty cool pictures. Go with a group of friends to a park or anywhere nearby that you can capture the beauty of winter.

Senior Julia Dobry took advantage of the cold weather when she went up north over winter break. "I have always loved taking pictures of nature," she said. "Winter is the perfect season to capture a lot of cool picture."

Adam Devine Comedy Performance

Feb. 11 at 7 p.m.

Location: The Fillmore Detroit

Admission: \$55

You may know and love comedy star Adam Devine from Pitch Perfect, Workaholics, or Neighbors, but you now have the chance to see him live in action!

The Lion King Play

Feb. 1 - Feb. 26

Location: The Detroit Opera House

Admission: \$47 - \$71 (depending on date and seating)

Rated 4.5 on Yelp

With 90+ million audience members worldwide, *The Lion King* play is the award winning best musical must see. US News describes it as "unlike anything ever seen before on Broadway."

Movies

Go see a movie with friends or family at any of the theaters near by, like the South Lyon Theater, Emagine in Novi or MJR in Brighton.

Admission: \$5-\$12, depending on age and time

Mount Brighton

Hit the slopes with a group of friends for the day
Open 10a.m - 10p.m. on weekdays and 9 a.m.- 10 p.m. on weekends

Admission: \$40-\$50 (depending on hours)

Senior Lauren Bunker has been skiing since she was young and is planning on joining the MSU ski club next year. She has been going to Mount Brighton for years. "Mount Brighton is awesome because you get to spend time outdoors with your friends and there is nothing better than the feeling after you get a good run," Bunker said.

Ice Skating at The Rink at Campus Martius Park Detroit

Open until March 5 2017

Admission: \$8 Skate rental: \$3

Senior Callie Harper visited Campus Martius ice rink recently. "I'm not the best skater, but I had a lot of fun." "They played music the whole time and all of the lights were so pretty to look at while skating. It was entertaining to watch other people skate too. I would recommend making the trip out to Campus Martius; it's pretty cool," she said.

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Super Bowl preview: Patriots dust the league, look to Super Bowl

Kiana Buchanczenko '18, Sports Editor

Every fan base wants to perceive that their team will make it in the Super Bowl. Despite this perception, chances are most of these teams will not see a decent record past the 12th week. All year, fans from all around the world await for the ending of the regular season to make their bets and see which NFL teams have risen to the top and secured a spot in the playoffs and eventually, the Super Bowl game. It is with no surprise that one of the top teams is once again the New England Patriots. The Patriots have been 12-4 for the past four years, disinclusing 2016 where they went 14-2 making them the undeniable favorites in the AFC East.

Led by coach Bill Belichick and quarterback Tom Brady, the Patriots have displayed year after year that they are the team to beat. The Patriots have appeared in the Super Bowl eight times in franchise history, making them one of the top teams who have gone to the Super Bowl alongside the Dallas Cowboys and the Pittsburgh Steelers. Four of the eight appearances were wins led by none other than the league's top quarterback, Brady. Brady tied Joe Montana and Terry Bradshaw as the only quarterbacks to win four Super Bowls. By winning Super Bowl 51 held in Houston this February, Brady has the opportunity to become the quarterback with the most Super Bowl wins which would be another record broken on his list of many.

In total, the Patriots have won four Super Bowl championships, six conference championships, 13 division titles, 177 regular-season games and 22 postseason games. Brady will, without a doubt, go down as to be one of the greatest to ever play the game as he continues to break titles not even created yet and is repeatedly

referred to as the 'greatest of all time'. The Patriots are easily the top contender for making the Super Bowl this year. With a giant chip on their shoulder from the accusations from 'deflate gate', where Brady was accused of asking a locker room attendant to deflate the footballs in the AFC championship game against the Colts, the team has had some major 'us versus the world' mentalities.

"We are for sure are going to make the Super Bowl. We have Tom Brady who is out for revenge since deflate gate plus our killer offensive line that is unstoppable," junior Sam Hallanger said. The last known losing season of the team was in 2000 when they went 5-11. Since then, the Patriots have not only broken records, but have gone on to win the four Super Bowl titles in 2002, 2004, 2005, and 2015. You do not have to be a Patriots fan to know that they have the advantage in advancing to Super Bowl 51 and have a reasonably good chance of winning.

With the dynamic duo of Brady and Belichick, the team is almost guaranteed, at the bare minimum, a playoff spot every year until the two decide to call it quits. Many would say that their time is coming soon; however, Brady has made the age of thirty-nine never look and perform so well. Brady, without a doubt, continues to get better and better and has not yet shown any signs of slowing down anytime soon. With a record as great as his, a talented coach and one of the top offensive and defensive lines, there are certainly



Photo courtesy of sportslogos.net.

more records for the team to break.



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South Lyon athletes move on to the collegiate level

Dawson Moll '17, News Editor

The South Lyon community has always been known to generate some of the best athletes in the area, and it is time for some of that talent to move on to their plans post-high school. Student-athletes from SLHS are going all over the state to fulfill their dreams of being college athletes. Just a few of these individuals who are moving onto the next level were asked to share their biggest decisions when it comes to choosing a school:



Name: Michael Maher
Sport: Baseball
Schools student is interested in: Oakland University and Saginaw Valley State University
Biggest factors for choosing a school: Academics, housing, food, and location
How long the student has played his sport: 14 years



Name: Braxton Blackwell
Sport: Football
Schools student is interested in: Saginaw Valley State University and Michigan Tech
Biggest factors for choosing a school: Location and housing
How long the student has played his sport: 11 years



Name: Jack Dalzochio
Sport: Soccer
School student is interested in: Adrian College
Biggest factors for choosing a school: Academics, coaches, and competitive team
How long the student has played his sport: 14 years



Name: Starr Bryan
Sport: Diving
School student is interested in: Grand Valley State University
Biggest factors for choosing a school: Campus, atmosphere, team, coaches and scholarships
How long the student has played her sport: 5 years

Photos by Michael Martinez

Do all sports deserve the same amount of fame?

Dylan Thieleman '17, News Editor

There are sports teams throughout South Lyon that no one recognizes--some not even as real sports. Meanwhile, sports like football get all the fame and glory. Most female sports do not get as much recognition because people have preconceived notions about women sports being less exciting than their male counterparts, but it is more likely they have yet to give it a chance. There are even boys' sports that are considered to not be as deserving of attention or fandom as sports like football and basketball.

Senior, football player, and wrestler, Brandon Buchler said, "There are some sports that get a little more recognition than others. I play football, and people come to games, and people are always asking how the team is doing." He continued, "There are some sports that don't get enough recognition. Girls' sports don't, and wrestling does not either." Part of this is in fact due to stigmas attached to certain sports by gender or simply in regards to misconceptions about the sport itself.

"Boys' wrestling has a lot of misconception like we are nasty and disgusting because of all the diseases that you can get, but we are one of the cleanest teams in the KLAAs that I have ever seen," Buchler said. It is important to consider that the stereotypes or assumptions about sports may not be true, and if one would give other sports that are perhaps not as popular and well known, he or she may find themselves surprised as to how much they enjoyed a unique event.

"It is important to support fellow school members and go to their sporting events and give them our support, even if we do not usually watch that sport." He added, "You do not always have to follow the crowd or go with the trend. Fans should be a leader, start a new trend and give all of our Lions a chance."

No matter what sport it is, to build a community, Fans must show up for support to our Lions and cheer for them to do their best at their meets or games. "We should give them even though it might not be as exciting as others," senior football player, Mike Maher said. Maher thinks that all the sports teams in our school are important, but some might just be more intriguing and people may have more interest for that sport.

For example, everyone always goes to the football games almost every week, whether

home or away. Statistics say that Ford Field can fit 65,000 people to watch football and Comerica Park can hold only 41,000 for baseball. Baseball is slow, low-scoring and quiet—the opposite of the fast, loud and violent game of football; however, there is only a select few people that even come to a home game for sports that do not have as much popularity.

People are wondering how we can change this, but at the same time many people have not given these teams a chance. The solution is if we all start going to other sports events then they will become popular. People find attention to be the most important component to a sport's entertainment value. "It's not the sport that makes it a great time, it's the people," senior football player Ryan Pedersen said.

So, to properly fix this issue, just give all sports a chance. If we all start going to all the sport events, popular or unpopular, it will bring our school closer together and give sports the same attention that they all deserve. Many of the students that come out and cheer and watch your sports team are on a sports team themselves. So, it is time to come out and give our Lions the respect and support that they deserve.



Photo courtesy of Wikimedia Commons user VIGNERON, Clipart Kid, Adam Nash, Charles Boehm, Wilson - Dubai Tennis Academy

South Lyon High School improves with new teachers

Abigail Tobis '20, Feature Editor

The freshmen students are not the only ones that have to get through the nerve-wracking experience of adjusting to a new school. South Lyon High School is always improving the academic achievement of its students by bringing in top performing educators every year. Just like freshmen, new teachers to SLHS and teachers that are completely new to teaching altogether, have a lot on their plate: navigating the hall, getting to know their students and other staff, and learning the ins and outs and requirements of a brand new school.

The students are extremely grateful for the addition of new blood to the school and the fresh ideas that are brought to the classrooms and to the school community. The big question that remains, however, is how do the teachers feel they are fitting in?

Special Education teacher Mrs. Susan Woodley has been teaching for ten years. She taught elementary school and middle school, but high school is a totally new experience for her. She said that she felt that it was time for a “new pathway” in her life.

Woodley feels that high school is very ‘busy,’ especially with a tight six-hour schedule and brief lunch. Even with these factors, she really enjoys working with her students and co-teaching with her fellow teachers.

Compared to her other schools, she added that there is more of a chance to work with students one-on-one and reteach information that some students may need to review again to understand fully.

Woodley said, “High school is very different than the other districts I have taught at.” New teachers like Woodley are going to have experiences that may be dissimilar to that of SLHS and are likely unique to that school’s specific culture. Change is never easy as there is always a period of adjustment to anything that varies from what one is used to.

History teacher Mr. Ben McNally said that this is his first year teaching. McNally student taught at Eisenhower High School, and his first official year is here at South Lyon High School.

When asked if he noticed a difference in the high schools, McNally explained how SLHS has a different student make-up compared to the other high school at which he taught. “There is more technology and resources that are available,” McNally added. This indicates how different schools have different resources that are readily available to them and that the teachers are grateful for the technology and other vital tools that improves the school atmosphere that is provided here at SLHS.

Overall, his experience in the South Lyon High School atmosphere has been a good one this far.

Another new teacher to SLHS is English teacher Ms. Colleen Cox; she has been teaching for three years. Her previous years of teaching have been at Lake Shore High School where she was living on Lake Michigan for three years.

She said a main difference she has noticed in SLHS compared to Lake Shore was that

she had a larger opportunity to connect with the students at Lake Shore and with the staff because she did yearbook with her staff at her old high school. She also said that SLHS is a lot bigger than her other high school which makes it a little harder to connect with students more.

Cox said, “I moved to be closer to family.” She later went on to explain that even though she misses the old high school at which she worked, she really enjoys this school, and she hopes with time, it will become just like home.

New teachers are going through the same thing that the freshman students are, and all seem to be finding ways to adjust. South Lyon High School is lucky to have these and the other fresh teacher faces helping their students get a great education.



Photos courtesy of Tori Williams and

Teachers Ms. Susan Woodley, Mr. Ben McNally, and Ms. Colleen Cox are adjusting to a new building, new staff, and new classes while juggling their first year in a new building, or their first year teaching in McNally’s case.

Teachers reveal most embarrassing moments

Emily Harris '17, Circulation Manager

Everyone has been embarrassed at one point in their life. Even if it is just something small like stuttering while reading something in front of the class, or something a little worse like falling in public. We have all been there; often times, we think teachers live under their desks and are programmed to say and do certain things, but in reality, they are people too and have been in embarrassing situations.

Name: Mr. Hathikhanavla

Teaches: Choir and Piano Lab

Embarrassing Moment: Mr. Hathikhanavala was walking up the bleachers after making an announcement and he tripped, hitting his face on the steps. Hathikhanavala said, “I could feel my face turning red. It was only about my second year teaching, so I wasn’t as confident as I am now.” He also said that everyone laughed about it after they made sure he was okay.

Name: Mr. DiVitto

Teaches: Government and World History

Embarrassing Moment: “When I worked at a private school, I stepped on a student’s backpack and fell. It kind of felt like I was falling in slow motion,” DiVitto said. He was trying to grab desks to catch himself, but those were falling over as well. He added that the students laughed after he got up and said he was okay.

Name: Mrs. Keena

Teaches: Sculpture, ceramics, and photography

Embarrassing Moment: Keena says, “I had a kiln top fall on my head, and I had to be taken away in an ambulance.” Keena was out for awhile but she recovered and eventually came back. She says she still goes near the kiln, which is surprising since it nearly killed her. This moment is more worrying than embarrassing, but it still would be embarrassing to say you received a concussion from a kiln top.



New Year's resolutions rooted in history, not in desire to be healthy, or to kick old, bad habits

Bryce Carter '17, Business and Advertising Manager

Every year, people all over the U.S., and probably all over the world, make a resolution, and within weeks those resolutions people made fall to the wayside just like when people promise themselves they are going to not going to hit snooze in the morning, or not procrastinate anymore. They just do not happen.

Have you ever wondered why people would even make these resolutions, or promises to themselves (or their new selves), knowing they are not likely to follow through with them?

This probably adheres most closely to the 'new year, new me' resolution in which there are weeks in January where gyms are so crowded, and regular gym-goers have to wait hours on end just to get a dumbbell they want until February when the gym-body resolution is dismissed as too much work or time is required.

Half of all Americans make these type of resolutions, but only eight percent actually meet their desired goal. This all started with Babylonians when they would make promises to their gods at the start of each year that they would return borrowed objects and pay their debts. More than 4000 years ago, the ancient Babylonians celebrated the New Year not in January, but in March, when the spring harvest came in. The festival, called Akitu, lasted 12 days.

The Romans then began each year by making promises to the god Janus, for whom the month of January is named. It seems that most ancient people practiced the fine art of New Year's resolutions, though their oaths were external, rather than internally focused.

The top ten resolutions people make in present day however are as followed: lose weight, get organized, spend less, save more, enjoy life to the fullest, get fit or eat healthy, learn something exciting, quit smoking, help others fall in love, and spend more time with family.

Reading that list makes you sit back and think about how many people actually follow through with those goals. Do people really change themselves inside and out at the start of the new year?

Most memorable moments of 2016

Jake Stowers '17, Opinion Editor

Donald Trump Elected

Being the most prominent topic of 2016, of course the presidential election would be at the top of the list. One of our most controversial presidents, Donald Trump has been the first president in history to have no experience in government or the military. His actions will definitely have some sort of major effect on America, let alone the world, and everyone will be watching as of Inauguration Day on Jan. 20.

Robots can now teach each other

Ever since the idea of robots existing became a reality, there never was a thought that eventually they could be able to teach themselves rather than needing to rely on humans. When scientists teach a robot how to interact with things as simple as objects, there are millions of different reactions possible to various situations. All the possibilities for hundreds of interactions with just a single object would take a painful amount of time to program, but now thanks to the advancement of the extremely complex artificial thought process for robots, they are now able to teach other robots without assistance from scientists.

Pokémon Go release

The release of Pokémon Go helped merge the gap between a basement dwelling gamer and fitness guru. The goal of the game was to collect as many Pokémon as possible and control 'gyms' spread out all over the world for one of the three teams you chose to join. Although its popularity only lasted a short time, the game is still widely popular among both kids and adults, and brings both of the audiences together.

Death of many famous people

This year has brought us plenty of new entertainers and artists, but it has also taken from us just as many. Actors Gene Wilder, Carrie Fisher and Zsa Zsa Gabor, singers Prince and David Bowie, former first lady Nancy Reagan and the infamous Cuban President, Fidel Castro. The amount of influence these few people had on previous generations was prominent, and they will never be forgotten.

Leonardo Dicaprio wins his first Oscar

Being the death of a long living meme, Leonardo Dicaprio finally earned his first Oscar. He won for his leading role in the 2015 western drama, *The Revenant*, but his reaction was not expected. The audience was surprised when all of a sudden, DiCaprio changed the topic from thanking everyone who helped him along the way, to discussing how big of an issue global warming is taking a more political stance.

Release of Rogue One: A Star Wars Story

As expected, *Rogue One*, the second part of the revival of one the most popular movie series of the 70s, brought mass numbers of long time fans as well as newcomers to the series. Although not as impressive as the last movie, earning 37.4 percent less than *The Force Awakens* did on opening weekend, it still marked the 12th biggest debut of all time. Many fans agree that it was much darker than the usual mood of Star Wars movies, but it is definitely still worth seeing.

the **rise** and of the **fall** bottle **diy**

Austin Vliet '17, Student Life Editor

2016 brought upon many internet trends. Some were fun like the popular but short lived Pokémon Go app, or some that were strange, like the Kylie Jenner lip challenge. The king of 2016 internet trends, however, is the legendary bottle flip.



The bottle flip craze started after a video came out of senior Mike Senatore from Ardrey Kell High School flipping a water bottle that was partially full in the school's talent show.

The internet went ballistic: thousands of people began to upload videos to show off the crazy moments that they managed to land their bottle upright.

Right here at South Lyon High School there was a bottle flip epidemic. Students were trying to flip their bottles up onto the window sills and into the rafter beams. It got so bad students began getting in trouble for flipping bottles. If you walk around the school, you can still see

what remains of the bottle flip fad. Senior Jared Paugh said, "The coolest flip I've ever done was landing a water bottle on its cap, and it stayed up." Senior Zach Dobrick explained how he was so obsessed with the bottle flipping craze that he would do it non stop. "I was flipping bottles all the time. It was a constant obsession, but it was not hurting anyone so I did not see a problem with it," Paugh said. But what happened to this so popular challenge that broke the internet?

The bottle flip was here for about six months, and then it went dead like disco. Senior Chris Hill stated, "The bottle flip was cool for a while, but it just died down after a month or two."

The water bottle flip could be the biggest internet trend of 2016. Good thing it is a new year. Let's see what trend prevails in 2017.

Losing a loved one: The power of hope drives the ability to cope

McKenzi Roe '17, Editor-in-Chief

Death is inevitable. At some point, hopefully after we have lived a long, successful life, we all will leave this world. The death of a loved one is an event that all of us are likely to experience at some point during our lifetimes, often on numerous occasions. While death is not some unknown concept to us, you never truly know how to deal with it until you have experienced it for yourself.

Growing up, I never would have expected to lose someone at such a young age, especially someone so close to me. But two years ago, in August of 2014, my entire world had been shattered. At 33 years of age, my brother Ryan had committed suicide. How does one go on when they lose their brother?

The first thing I noticed after losing my brother was this: the world keeps spinning even after something so tragic. Although your world may feel broken, life keeps going on, and you are forced to somehow pull yourself together and get on with it too.

I could sit here and tell you about all the nights I spent crying myself to sleep, or the mornings where I physically could not get my body out of bed, but what good is that? I would rather tell you this:

I share the story of my brother to remind you of how incredibly precious life is and to never take the relationships in your life for granted. I was reminded by someone once, a smart man who endured a similar experience, to take life by the minute because not every minute is guaranteed. After losing someone, you find yourself overflowing with all sorts of emotions: anger, sadness, confusion and despair. It may seem like a never ending cycle. You'll ask yourself how such awful things could happen to you and your family? The truth is, you cannot focus on all of those unanswered questions or all the words left unsaid. All you can do is cherish the memories you were blessed to have with your loved one and focus on dealing with the grieving process ahead of you.

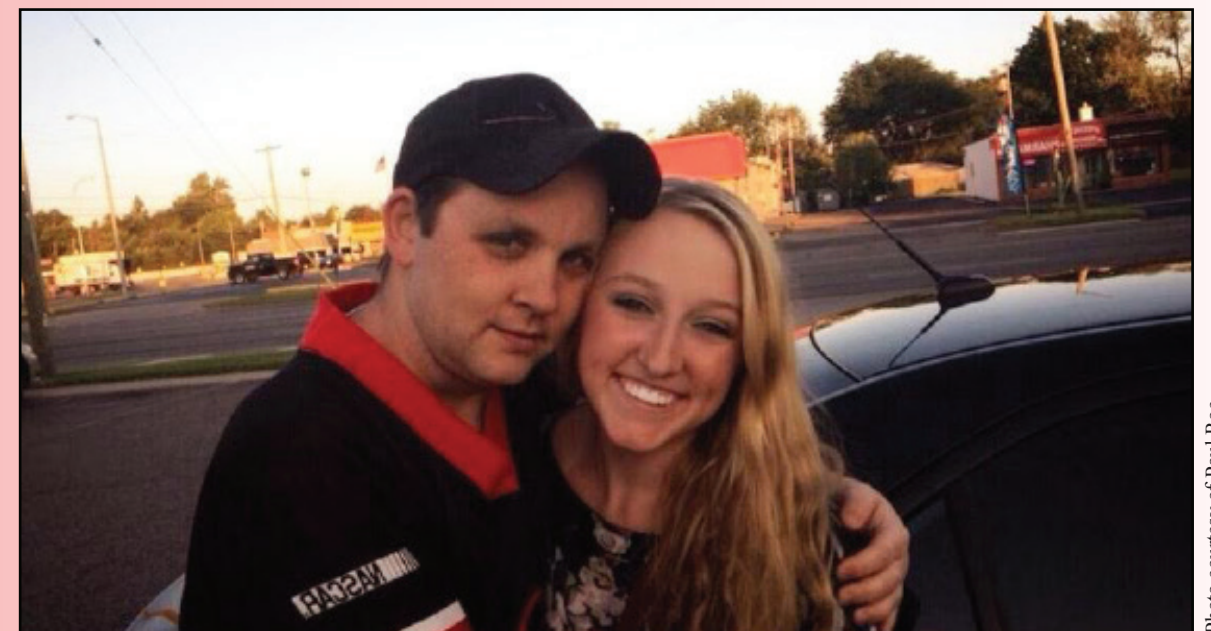
Unfortunately, the grieving never stops, but it does get better with time. "It takes a village," as my mother always said to me. It takes a village of unconditional love and endless support from friends and family to help rebuild a broken heart, but it also takes faith. Whether it is faith in God or some other higher power, use every ounce of faith inside of you to believe that you can get through this. That is what faith is all about. Giving all your love, all your trust and all your hope into the idea of something greater than even you can comprehend, despite not only the good times but also the incredibly hard times.

Through my amazing support system and faith, I found myself having a breakthrough one warm afternoon in May of 2015. I finally found a reason to get up in the morning and keep pushing forward; I decided that I would live each day honoring my big brother Ryan. It was after that day that getting out of bed was not so difficult anymore, and the crying at night had slowly diminished.

The point of all of this is that two years ago it seemed impossible to make it through the death of my brother, but I stand here two years later in a much better place. I wake up every morning promising to be the best possible version of myself, and I do it not only for me, but for my beautiful brother Ryan.

So, to the girl whose sister passed away, to the boy whose father died, and to anyone out there who is struggling with the loss of a loved one, never lose sight of this: your loved one's soul will live through you and your entire family. Never forget all they have taught you throughout your life, but most importantly, what they have taught you since they have been gone. Your love for them is never-ending, and I promise that it will continue to grow even without them here.

So, how does one go on when they lose someone they love? There is no right answer, all you can do is just keep pushing forward.



McKenzi Roe smiling big with her brother Ryan as they enjoy a birthday dinner for his 33rd birthday.

Photo courtesy of Paul Roe



12 LIONS' ROAR

The land of the Dutch: find yourself along the canals

Yana van Vlerken '17, Layout Director/Design Manager

When thinking of your go-to holiday destination; the Netherlands probably does not come to mind. As some may know, I have lived in The Netherlands for over 16 years, and I will return in June 2017. In the meantime, I am living just like you here in America. You may not know much about my home country, but that is about to change.

First things first, take a look at the map and try to spot my homeland. The Netherlands may be one-sixth the size of Michigan, but this simply adds to its cozy little towns, well organized public transportation and cute little brick roads and canals. People connect the Dutch background to things as windmills, wooden shoes and tulips. In addition, some may have heard a lot about, our most famous city, Amsterdam's 'bad side'. To clear up these stereotypes, I have never actually seen someone wearing wooden shoes, there is only one touristy tulip field, windmills pop up sometimes, and there is much more that Amsterdam has to offer than red lights and weird museums. However, Amsterdam is not the only interesting city in the Netherlands. I can explain a little more about five favorites of mine.

Let's start in the far south with Maastricht. In my opinion, this is the most beautiful city in the country. Old architecture and amazing bridges make for a lot to see. The city has lively student spirit and great cafes to go to along with lots of places to shop.

Rotterdam, known for its creativity and for having the biggest port of Europe, is a city with lots of street art and hidden creative decorations, a breathtaking bridge, and a lively spirit.

Utrecht, the heart of The Netherlands, is right in the middle, which makes it a great place for gatherings. Utrecht also has picturesque canals and brick roads, a great shopping center and nice restaurants.

Eindhoven is a technology town with very interesting architecture. My favorite neighborhood in this city is called Strijp-S. It is an industrial, artsy looking area with small businesses, cute cafes and a skate park.

Amsterdam, the capital, is an awesome place to shop and catch up with the Dutch history and culture. Amsterdam has a crazy tram, bike and car traffic swirling through narrow streets and canals. Amsterdam is also very multicultural; you can find a great variety of people in this city. It is the most crazy and exciting city of The Netherlands in which you do not get bored easily.

Before you plan on crossing the ocean, there are some more things you need to know and some practical information that will come in handy during your visit. For instance, Dutch people communicate in a different way than Americans. A perfect example of this can be found in discussions. Since Dutch people talk about everything; touchy subjects

do not exist. Being able to express your opinion is very important, and the Dutch are very open-minded. They do, however, speak in a more direct way, which may come off as rude to others who are not used to this way of speaking. On the other hand, do not be afraid to ask someone for directions, everyone is able to speak at least a little bit of English, just do not take it personal however they respond.

As far as the weather goes, Dutch people think they live in a rainy country, which is not completely true because when it falls, it is not that much. It is more frequent, but there is less quantity. It can rain at any moment, any time of the year, so it is important to always be prepared.

Transportation wise, The Netherlands has well organized public transportation systems, including busses, trams and trains. You can get everywhere whenever you want. For smaller distances, people drive or bike. Biking is a big thing in this country in comparison to America. It is not so much a sport, instead it is the main mode of transportation for 31.2 percent of the population. People bike to their job, to the grocery shop and to school to pick up their children (who also bike). High school/college students are the main users of the bike. For example, my high school at home has a biking parking lot. Imagine the student parking lot here at school, but then filled up with thousands of bikes. Students do not drive to school; in fact, most of them are not able to. In the Netherlands you can not fully drive by yourself until you are 18 years old. So that is one of the main reasons why students all bike. Also, every street has a bike path next to it, which makes it fairly easy to bike everywhere. Bike traffic can be pretty crazy though, especially in bigger cities.

So, if you ever think of paying a visit (maybe because you want to visit your favorite exchange student), be sure to give me a call, and I will be your personal tour guide in this beautiful little country of crazy bike traffic, direct speaking people, and unpredictable weather.



Two major tourist spots are the Seventh Canal Ring in Amsterdam (left), and the windmills, many of which are still in use, in Kinderdijk, The Netherlands.



Photo by Ms. Emily Mullins

Mandela Effect scares students, causes questions of sanity

Abigail Tobis '20, Feature Editor

You are playing Monopoly, and as you look at the label you realize that the monocle, or the eyeglass piece you always thought that the Monopoly guy had, was never there. You start to notice a trend, and see that many other people have had the same reaction to these instances where you have noticed something to be different from how you remembered it originally. Many recent posts online are about this idea that these memories that people seemingly have are memories from another life and are not physically true in present time. This idea is called the Mandela Effect. This is the theory of when a person has a clear memory of an event happening or that something is a certain way, but are incorrect. Some think that these things occur from being in a parallel universe.

This idea all started with the popular understanding that Nelson Mandela had died in the 80s when he was in prison, but he actually died in 2013. Many were convinced that they saw his funeral video.

Many instances have happened like the situation with Mandela and some have started to nick name these types of memories as the Mandela Effect. This complicated conundrum is now starting to strike people's attention.

For example, freshman Sierra Steckle explained how she feels that the most surprising Mandela Effect instance that came to her mind was the fact that Mickey Mouse never had any overalls. She said, "I swear that he always had red overalls. That is how I always remembered it." Steckle is not the only one. Many others remember Mickey Mouse with overalls, but his

character never had them, weird right?

Freshman Nicole Young explained how she always thought that the Berenstain Bears was always the Berenstein Bears. That is how she always remembered the name to be spelled and pronounced. She went on to explain how this was such a surprise to her and it is likely a surprise for many.

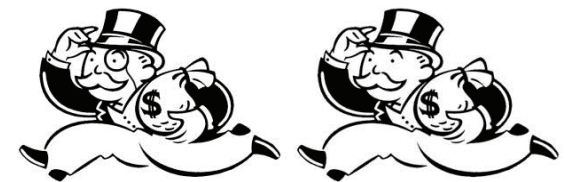
The big question is if these instances are because we are in a parallel universe, and does everyone believe in this idea? Many people wonder if this effect is, in fact, true.

When asked if she believes that we are living in a parallel universe, Young said that she does believe that we live in one. She went on to say, "The idea of the Mandela Effect scares me to think that things that are happening now could be different in the future." If the Mandela Effect is completely accurate and real, then who knows if what is true now could not be true later in time. This is a scary thought indeed.

There is a lot of evidence to show that the Mandela Effect is real, but nobody knows for sure. Many people are skeptical and others are true believers. Now the big question is, do you believe this mysterious theory or not?



Nelson Mandela, the man whose supposed death started this speculation.



A picture of the Monopoly logo (right), where many believe that he had a monocle when, after all, this was never true.

Photo courtesy of Wikimedia Commons

LISTEN. LEARN. EXERT. RESPECT: Student recognition awards lose recognition

Tori Pearson '17, Photo Editor

In our school, there are certain students who get awarded for doing something good, but do they actually know why they are getting rewarded it for? At South Lyon High School, students have an opportunity to receive the Listen. Learn. Exert. Respect Awards. These awards are given for students doing simple things such as opening the door for someone or helping someone with his or her homework. It can be given to students who are at a low grade level in their classes, and try to work their way back up and are always striving to improve. Teachers are supposed to pick a student in their class and tell them what they saw the students do to earn this award.

History teacher Mr. Ben McNally is a new high school teacher in our school. While going through training, the new teachers discuss what the awards actually mean and what they should be. They explained what these awards actually meant. "It is a way to motivate students to do nice things for one another, by helping someone out in the hallway or helping someone get to class and by honoring those students and give them credit for doing things that we normally don't see in class," McNally said.

Assistant Principal Mr. Mitch Rosekrans added, "It is given out by any staff member to any student that represents strong character traits and does what is right when people aren't around." He said, "[these students] help others and are very courteous volunteers who do any number of things to make the school and community a better place." Despite the important of student recognition by those who see them everyday, students are not, as of late, being shown much appreciation for the good things they do.

Junior Emily Schram has earned two of these awards since she has been at SLHS.

"When I realized I got two of them, I felt really good about myself, especially by the teachers I received them from. One of them is a really strict teacher, and she sets the bar really high, so for me to achieve that was pretty great."

The students who get the awards feel proud of themselves and want to do a lot for our school and the community. There should be more opportunities like this, and more awards given distributed. Teachers and staff only do between one to two awards each year, but each should do many more. During their meetings, they could give at least five minutes of their time to write a student's name down and tell them why they received the award. Giving these awards out more than once could increase the amount of times students doing more kind things for one another and better the school culture.



Photo by Tori Pearson

Students' hidden talents exposed

Dylan Thieleman '17, News Editor

South Lyon has a lot of unrecognized talents and unseen abilities. These talents often get overshadowed by other popular activities. These people deserve more attention and recognition by their peers. Here are a few unique skills that shine bright in South Lyon.

Senior Grant Gardiner- Pogo stick and jump rope at the same time

Gardiner's special talent is pogo sticking and jump roping at the same time. Gardiner just happened to get a pogo stick for Christmas when he was a kid. He said he was intrigued and wanted to get it. He has been able to do this for about ten years now, and he is very good at it. In third grade, Gardiner showed off his talent at Dolsen Elementary school talent show, and everyone was amazed. He likes it because it is different and not many people can do it.



Senior Brendan George- The amazing guitar player

Brendan George's special talent is playing the guitar. He says your talent is what you are passionate about so if you enjoy doing something then you will find a way to do it. He has been playing the guitar for about a year and a half now, and he did his first performance at Pumpkinfest last year. George loves to play country, blues and rock and roll. He enjoys playing the guitar because it is fun, and it helps him express his personality and deep emotions.

Senior Starr Bryan- The all around singer

Bryan's special talent is singing. She loves to sing because she feels that she can better tell a story and express her emotions by singing, rather than just speaking. She also likes to perform and there is something about music that makes her happy. Bryan has been singing forever to the radio, but the first time she actually realized she wanted to be a singer was when she tried out for a solo in sixth grade, and she sang "Rolling in the Deep". Ever since that day, she knows singing is what she wants to do and hopes one day she can sing professionally.



Photos by Michael Martinez

These people work hard to improve their special talents. What is your special talent?

14 LIONS' ROAR

Temperatures are dropping but our style is still popping

Zayne George '17, Business/Ad Manager

Winter is in full effect as SLHS just experienced a refreshing "Ice Day" on Jan. 17, so it is time to bring out your warm, oversized sweaters and your fleece lined flannels. Dressing for the cold weather can be hard for some, but for others, it can be described as their true calling. Many students at South Lyon High School have a great sense of fashion and would love to share their secrets with everyone.

Senior Mike Maher comes to school everyday dressed to impress. With a style like no other, he decided to explain how he picks out his outfits. "I usually shop on this website called Olly Express. They sell jerseys, sweatshirts and pullovers for extra cheap," Maher stated. He went on to add that he liked dressing for the winter, but he did say that, "I prefer summer clothes over winter clothes." Maher added, "I would say I spend about \$200 on an outfit- a nice outfit. My boots were \$160 (Timberlands), my flannel was \$80, and my Nike pants were also very expensive. I'm always rockin' it." One can see more clearly now as to why he prefers dressing for summer over winter—it is much cheaper.

In addition to Maher, senior Autumn Derr has a unique style that not many can pull off. From wearing things like overalls with a pair of sparkly flats, to an oversized sweater poncho with some cute boots, she has a great sense of style, and she truly knows how

to dress for any season. Since it is winter, however, she decided to tell us how she chooses her outfits for the day. "Well, I do most of my shopping at American Eagle. When picking out my outfits, I look things up on my phone for inspiration, like on Pinterest. I look up an article of clothing that I have, and I mix and match outfits to compare to those online." When asked which season was her favorite to dress for, she said, "I like dressing for winter a lot better than summer because I don't like wearing dresses, skirts, or shorts."

Dressing for the winter lets you show your creativity by layering and matching things you usually would not in the summer. Derr added, "I usually spend maybe \$400 [on a season]. After time, things just start to pile up." Something that makes picking out outfits easier for her is that she picks out her outfits for the entire week on Sunday night, so she can have them all ready for the rest of the week.

Everyone has their own unique style that expresses something about them. Whether you wear athletic clothes, sweatpants and sweatshirts everyday, or even wearing dresses that you make yourself, South Lyon is packed with one of a kind individuals who all bring something different to the table.



Senior Autumn Derr shows off her winter style by matching a cute sweater with a thick, wool scarf and some long neck jewelry.

Photo by Tori Pearson

Find local fun this spring break

Riley Smith '17, Social Media Manager/Website Director

Staying home this spring break? Do not get bummed out yet, there is still plenty of fun to be had that is just a short drive away from South Lyon. I came to the realization, after talking to some students, that most believe staying home over spring break prevents you from having any fun. "Going away and seeing something new is always going to be more fun than staying in South Lyon," senior Jenna Herrington said. "When you sit at home it doesn't even feel like a vacation, just a drawn out weekend," senior Zach Duff added. Luckily, however, none of this has to be true. Below are some of the local, inexpensive activities you might want to give a try if you are not traveling this year:

See a movie:

Imagine Theatre in Novi and MJR in Brighton are great options. Both places only charge about \$10 per show; each venue is also stocked with candy, popcorn, and drinks for sale to make seeing a movie even more fun. Both theatres are only about a 20-minute drive if the road conditions are not too bad.

Go bowling:

At Pinz, which is right down the street from SLHS on Pontiac Trail, it costs between \$2.75 and \$3.95 per person per game and \$3 for shoe rental. You can also grab a slice of pizza or order some fries from the kitchen while you are there for not much extra.

Play laser tag:

You can visit the arcade at Paradise Park in Novi; each token is only \$0.25 and if you buy in bulk it is even less, and lazer tag will only set you back \$6.75 per game.

**Indoor go-kart racing:
Beat the cold and go racing at JD Karting in Novi.**

Try glow in the dark mini golf:

At Zap Zone Glo Golf in Canton, which is about a 30-minute drive, or Putting Edge in Novi only costs about \$10.50 per person per each game.



Senior Zach Duff now has a ton of ideas for spring break.



If Miami's beaches are not in your spring break horizons, there are still ways to have a blast while the snow melts.

Photos by Tori Pearson and Ms. Emily Mullins

It is easy to be bored staying home for spring break if you are just sitting around the house or enduring the same routine every day. If you find yourself lacking some fun, give one of these activities a try. Some friendly competition with your buddies or watching a new movie is the perfect way to beat the boredom and still enjoy your time off this year. Traveling for vacation can be a lot of fun, but you do not have to go all the way to Cabo or Orlando to enjoy your break. Instead, try driving down the street to find some local fun this year.

ROGUE ONE AWKWARDLY EXPANDS THE STAR WARS CANON

Alec Mair '17, Entertainment Editor

It is hard to criticize Star Wars. It is a classic American film series; even the critical failures of three of the films could not stop the juggernaut space opera. Last year, the franchise returned strong with the seventh film, *The Force Awakens*, and fans old and new alike were on the edge of their seats waiting for the next installment of the story that made America love nerds.

Rogue One: A Star Wars Story is not episode eight, but it is not a spin-off either. It is part of the newly minted Star Wars Anthology series, films that will fill in the gaps between the mainline releases and keep the fans excited with stories related to certain characters and events that would not otherwise be told. *Rogue One* serves as a prequel to the original Star Wars, and follows a group of rebels in their desperate attempt to steal the schematics for the infamous Death Star from the Empire, a story never previously told in the films.

If you were expecting a film similar to *The Force Awakens*, you will be sorely disappointed. None of the original characters from the last film reappear in *Rogue One*, due to its place in the Star Wars timeline. This is to the film's detriment, as the five main rebels focused on are underwhelming. Jyn (played by Felicity Jones) is an uninteresting hero, a walking collection of tropes and clichés that sucks the life out of an otherwise decent film. Her counterparts Cassian (Diego Luna), Bodhi (Riz Ahmed), Chirrut (Donnie Yen), and Baze (Jiang Wen), do not offer much to support Jyn or the film itself; most of their performances are dreary, depressing affairs. Fortunately, the droid K2 (voiced by Alan Tudyk) offers levity and actually has fun during the film, but he is criminally underused.

The tone of *Rogue One* is also a far cry from the previous films. This is not a movie that makes you feel good. This is a very heavy-handed Star Wars drama. It feels out of place when compared to even the darker moments in the two trilogies that preceded it. It did

not have the atmosphere, or the adventure, or the comic relief, or the triumph, or any of the positive emotions that I loved in the original films. It does not feel like Star Wars, it feels like a completely different series, and it was not a welcome change.

Criticisms aside, as an action movie, it works well. The fight scenes were interesting enough to keep me engaged, and there was enough tension in certain scenes that I actively worried about the safety of the characters. I was excited when Darth Vader made his (unfortunately, scant) appearances; I was chilled when the Death Star first fires its iconic laser beam. Series fans also seem to enjoy it; senior Brendan George, a Star Wars fanatic, was very positive of the film, saying, "I liked how the story fell into [*Star Wars: Episode IV – A New Hope*]... I liked the darkness of it." I personally disagree with this sentiment, but that will depend on your own opinion.

I have mixed feelings about *Rogue One*. It could have been a better movie; it could also have been worse. There should have been less clichés. There should have been more interesting characters. I cannot hate it too much, but I cannot praise its lack of negative qualities the same as I would the presence of good ones. It works, and that may be enough for some, but for me, it was a piece of lore that could be easily forgotten.



Photo courtesy of Wikipedia user Film Fan

THE BEST MOVIES OF 2016

2016 is over, and I feel it is most appropriate to see what movies SLHS students thought were the best.

Marcus Miller '17, Entertainment Editor



SENIOR EMMA STOWE:

Nerve

Directed by Henry Joost, Ariel Schulman
Starring Emma Roberts, Dave Franco,
Emily Meade

Rotten Tomatoes Rating: 66%

"It was intense throughout the whole movie,
and I just wanted to keep watching."



SENIOR CONNOR MCCUSKER:

Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them

Directed by David Yates

Starring Eddie Redmayne, Katherine Waterston, Dan Fogler
Rotten Tomatoes rating: 73%

"It was amazing! I loved all the creatures, the plot and the main
actor was the best."

Photos courtesy of Lionsgate and Wikipedia user Film Fan

THE REALITY BEHIND REALITY TELEVISION

Emily Aiken '20, Feature Editor

When you think of reality TV, a lot of words may come to mind: humorous, dramatic and entertaining to name a few, but ironically, some of these words or phrases may actually be 'fake' or 'pretend'.

There are so many reality TV shows; in fact, over 750 were aired in 2016. Yes, 750. A multitude of these shows are drama filled. Shows like *Keeping Up With The Kardashians*, *American Idol*, *The Bachelor* and many others depict the drama in reality TV, but a lot of it is actually scripted. Some people may say that it is okay to fake real life in order to entertain the viewers; however, freshman Alli Piggott said, "It is not okay to say that a show is 'reality', when it is not, even if it is for entertainment purposes."

The Bachelor and *The Bachelorette*, for example, are American dating shows where a man or woman attempts to find their perfect love, and people compete to be their suitor. Many may be surprised to hear that the producers of *The Bachelor* and *The Bachelorette* actually talk to the people on the show and try to force situations into occurring. The producers also look into their backgrounds before choosing who actually wins.

Another thing that viewers may be surprised to hear is that on *Keeping Up With The*

Kardashians, a drama filled show that focuses on the personal and professional life of the Kardashian and Jenner family, 'surprise' proposals and break-ups are often filmed many times. So, technically they are not surprises whatsoever.

Furthermore, on *American Idol*, a show that launches many musical careers based on a competition, contestants go through a series of auditions in front of the producers before they go to the judges panel, and some acts are even changed around to be more humorous and entertaining. In reality, it takes a bunch of steps to find out whether or not contestants are TV material.

Finally, the show, *Cupcake Wars* is about the top bakers in a cupcake baking competition. In the show, the contestants have to quickly make a cupcake with specific ingredients that they find out that day; however, this is not true, for contestants actually find out the ingredients months ahead of time.

When it comes to reality TV, many things are not what they seem. So, the next time you are watching your favorite reality TV show, remember that what you are watching may be completely scripted and not 'reality' at all.

16 LIONS' ROAR



JUNIOR JAMES BANDY:
Doctor Strange
 Directed by Scott Derrickson
 Starring Benedict Cumberbatch, Chiwetel Ejiofor, Rachel McAdams
 Rotten Tomatoes score: 90%
 "3-D was the best to see it, and the movie was mind blowing; it was outstanding!"



SOPHOMORE BROOKE BOWMAN:
The Secret Life of Pets
 Directed by Chris Renaud, Yarrow Cheney
 Starring Louis C.K., Eric Stonestreet, Kevin Hart
 Rotten Tomatoes Score: 74%
 "The pets were so cute, and it was such a cute movie."



STARBOY HITS NEW LOW FOR MODERN R&B
 Alec Mair '17, Entertainment Editor

Hip-hop and R&B are in strange places right now. Trap-style production and nocturnal soundscapes bleed into almost every current hit. Dark tones and lyrical themes are more prevalent. Autotuned ballads of lost loves and existential angst appear on many records by relevant artists. This shift in perspective for the two genres comes as a pleasant surprise to some and as a disappointing change for others. No one represents this transformation better than The Weeknd, innovator in the wild wasteland of "Alternative R&B", and one of the most consistent chart toppers in recent memory. Unfortunately, he is a terrible human being.

I did not have much experience with The Weeknd before diving into his most recent record, *Starboy*, and for this I am thankful. There is only so much of this man I can stomach. I will not hesitate to say that he is a pig, a disgusting misogynist, and he comes off sounding like a predator. Throughout the course of this LP, references to getting his dates high and accosting girlfriends into revealing their sexual histories (such as on the song "True Colors") are portrayed non-ironically, and without any sort of moral ambiguity or understanding of the depraved nature of what he is suggesting. I came away from *Starboy* feeling sick to my stomach. The mere thought of this man being allowed around women disturbs me on a personal level, and I fear for anyone who might have to be subjected to his insane expectations of relationships.

This level of sexism is enough to ruin any record, but even if I were to take these elements away from *Starboy*, I am left with little to compliment. If he is not degrading women, The Weeknd is boasting about his achievements and playboy lifestyle to an unpleasant degree. Songs such as the title track, "Reminder", "Sidewalks" and "Ordinary Life", all showcase a level of narcissism that is too insane to be Macklemore-like endearing but not comical or creative enough to be entertaining. It is limp and just plain sad. On "Reminder", The Weeknd boldly proclaims that, "Godd**n b****, I am not a Teen Choice," and we are all left super impressed by his superiority over Nickelodeon.

The Weeknd is known for having dark, catchy beats—major factors in the success of his previous singles. *Starboy* offers this, but also builds on his previous work with elements of disco and electronica, and even a couple features from Daft Punk. Unfortunately for the record, there are 18 tracks and over an hour of this kind of content, and with this staggering amount of music, the production of every song is forgotten. They all felt the same by the time I was finished, and even the standout moments on individual tracks became overshadowed by their throwaway

peers that I could not tell you which song sounded like what. "The real Starboy move would have been cutting the crap," reviewer Larry Bartleet said for NME, and it captures the essence of these tracks. It was disappointing, as Daft Punk and The Weeknd's producers did not necessarily phone it in for *Starboy*, they were just forced into a crowd of their peers where not one face could stand out above the mass.. I did not hate the production necessarily, I just could not parse through the blob of nocturnal club synths and trap beats.

Starboy is not a good record, in both meanings of the word. It is a moral travesty, a pit of ignorance and prejudice. It is annoyingly vapid and egocentric. There is no enjoyment to be gained from any aspect of it, it being so joyless, empty and completely directionless. I hate this record; there are no silver linings in *Starboy*.

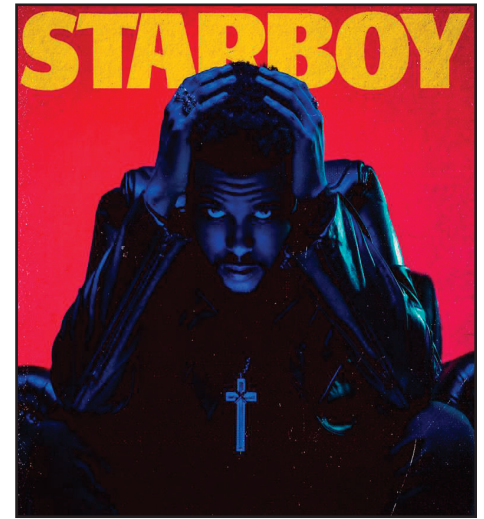


Photo courtesy of Wikipedia user Snap Snap

RUNTIME: 68 MINS
 BEST CUTS: "STARBOY", I GUESS
 WORST CUTS: THE ENTIRE THING
 FINAL VERDICT: 1/10
 "DISGUSTING!"
 "REPREHENSIBLE!"
 "ICKY!"

Continued from pg. 15

SENIOR TOMMY STUCKI:
The Jungle Book (2016)
 Directed by Jon Favreau
 Starring Neel Sethi, Bill Murray, Ben Kingsley
 Rotten Tomatoes score: 95%
 "They change the way many characters looked to make them look realistic."

Photos courtesy of Wikipedia users, Jodi94, Larniolus and Triipple Threat.

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How to master the art of Photography

Yana van Vlerken '17, Layout Director/Design Manager

Whether you are using your phone or a digital camera, taking a good photograph can be hard. Let me start off by saying this; you do not need a professional, fancy or expensive camera to take good photos. Instead, practice is what helps to capture the right image. The more photos you take, the better you get at photography. Practicing will help you develop a good eye for perspective, composition, and lighting. With all of that being said, you do not have to figure this all out by yourself. I will save you time of gaining experience by giving you some tips to instantly take a better photo. These will assist you on your journey to becoming a better photographer.



1. Composition is key

A composition is created by you deciding where you place certain elements in a photo. The one composition you cannot go wrong with is the rule of thirds. If you have ever looked up tips before, this is the number one tip that always pops up, but it just works extremely well. If you do not happen to know this rule, this is how it works: imagine you put a grid over a photo, try to place your subject at one of the crossing points.

2. Frame your image

I am not talking about a framed photo sitting on a cabinet in your living room. Framing in photography terms means you frame the photo while taking it. Take photos through gates, bridges, windows, leaves, etc. The best way for you to understand what I mean is by showing it.

3. Light up your photo

Always pay attention to the lighting, and observe where it is coming from. For example, when the sun is too bright and you have shadowing going on in people's faces, consider taking the photo in the shade or with the sun behind you. Be careful with this one, in most cases, it causes the photo to look like a silhouette, but sometimes it can turn out differently and leave you with a beautiful photo. So, try to experiment with this.

4. Perspective

A different perspective can make a photo much more interesting than just taking a photo while standing straight in front of your subject. Play with different perspectives, such as from above, below and from the side.

5. Check the background

The background is almost just as important as your subject in the foreground. Do not let little things ruin your photo. For example, something sticking out of someone's head, trash on the ground, other people, or just too much going on in a background can be really distracting to a viewer.

6. Depth of field

The depth of field of an image can make a photo so much more interesting. It is amazing what a blurry background can do. On a DSLR camera you can change the settings. You are able to change the amount of difference in clarity between the subject you are focusing on and its background. This feature is called aperture. A low number results in a larger depth of field and a high number results in a lower depth of field. In other words, with a low number there is a lot of blurriness in the background, and with a big number there will be a lot of sharpness in the background.

7. Don't be afraid

Step right in the action and get close. A photo can get way more interesting when it is taken up close or right in the middle of all the chaos that might be happening. A viewer likes to see more in a photo than what they normally already can see with their own pair of eyes. In photography, you are the one to decide what other people can see. Make use of this power.

8. Focus

The focus is very important. On your phone, you tap on the screen to decide where it focuses. On a camera, however, you work with little dots, if you do it manually. Normally, a phone and camera are on automatic focus. A tip for portrait and animal photography, always focus on the eye closest to the lens. This will cause the photo to always look sharp. This rule does not apply to other forms of photography. You do not have to focus on what is closest to the lens. Play with the focus on your camera.

9. Golden hour

The name kind of throws you off. The golden hour is actually more of a golden 15 minutes. You have to be in the right place and at the right time. Even more important, be quick. I can assure you, however, it will be worth it. The golden hour is a time of day when the sun stands low in the sky and is about to go into sunset mode. Right before that, the sun shines in a way that it paints with gold light. It is a very flattering and interesting light for every subject you can possibly think of.



10. Break the rules

Now you know some of the key tips of photography, which means you can follow them, but more importantly, now you know which rules to break. Experiment with photography, breaking rules will teach you as much as following the rules teaches you. So grab your phone or camera, and go out and take some masterpieces.

All photos by Yana Van Vlerken



Exercise improves our overall lifestyle

Rebecca Menard '17, Student Life Editor

Exercising is a very important aspect to being both physically and mentally healthy. There are endless benefits to exercise that will improve your overall well being. These range from weight loss, to reduced risk of cardiovascular disease, to an increase in strength and mobility, and to a heightened mood and better self-confidence. Exercise is guaranteed to bring positivity to anyone's life no matter age, gender, or appearance. So, the question is, if almost everyone is capable of exercise, and it has all of these benefits, why doesn't everyone do it?

The answer to that is all of the excuses and lack of motivation. "You can have results or excuses," famous bodybuilder and fitness fanatic Arnold Schwarzenegger said. The good thing is that there is an easy fix for excuses; all you have to do is ditch the excuses and get motivated. The common saying 'I don't have time' is sometimes true, but usually there is a way to make time. Replace the time you waste on your phone or watching TV with getting some physical activity. If you make exercise a priority, most likely there will be time.

Another excuse often made is, 'I just don't like working out and sweating'. Sweating is proven to be healthy and has numerous benefits. Breaking up a sweat releases toxins from the body, kills viruses and bacteria and even helps to relieve stress. If you don't like going to the gym, there are tons of other physical activities that you could do instead. You could try doing yoga, swimming, dancing,

biking, running or any other activity that you might enjoy.

Not having enough motivation is also a common problem that people have when working out. The key to getting motivated is thinking in a positive manner. Think about how being active and exercising is going to impact you and all of the good things it can do for you and your body. According to the American Psychological Association, 53 percent of teenagers said that they feel better about themselves after a workout and 40 percent are in a better mood, as well as 32 percent felt less stressed. Along with changes in the mind, think about the results you will be able to see physically in the near future and all of the progress you will make. You do not have to be in it alone either; you can find a buddy and motivate each other. Find someone you can go to the gym with, or whatever other physical activity is to your liking.

Today the internet has provided so many tools and guidelines that can help people with working out. Youtube is always available for instructional videos if you want to learn how to do a workout or a certain lift. YouTube also has thousands of videos on circuits or workout plans you can do at home or in the gym that are easy to follow and explain everything that you need to know. Instagram is even full of fitness pages and posts that also provide a ton of information on exercise and show instructional videos and tips just like YouTube. A popular site in the fitness world is Bodybuilding.com. It provides pretty

close to everything that you would ever need to know about exercising and diet. These are only a couple of the resources that are available to us that can be very helpful.

You might be wondering where you could go to start working out and doing something to better yourself and your body. Well, there are actually a lot of places. Starting with the most simple place, you could just use your house, like your living room, basement or bedroom. If you do not have any weights or machines at home, you could do simple body weight workouts; like pushups, situps, air squats or wall sits. There are gyms nearby, packed with equipment and machines that have reasonable memberships for students as well. You could go to the local gyms like Powerhouse, Anytime Fitness and TruFit, which are all in South Lyon, or there is Planet Fitness in Brighton. There are also many yoga places close by, or rec centers where you could get in just as good of a workout. Another option is even just outside, where you can practically do any form of physical activity there is.

Overall, being active and taking the time to exercise is so important for our health. It can benefit anyone in so many different ways. It is a journey that you can start at any time and does not ever have to end. Being healthy and exercising is a lifestyle that we should all try and incorporate into our everyday lives. It can all start now if you make the change in your life and get motivated.

Should religious books be in high school libraries?

Jake Stowers '17, Opinion Editor

When America was founded, the goal was to create a nation that did not force beliefs onto any of its citizens. One specific rule is that in public schools, religion can not be taught, based on the foundation of the separation of church and state. Although keeping religious books in a school library may go against this belief, it may be more beneficial than expected. Contrary to the popular idea that keeping things such as the Bible in school libraries is supporting the idea of teaching religion in schools, in reality, not keeping them in schools is the same as trying to act as if there is no such thing as religion. Studying religion and learning the beliefs can be beneficial to a student's education, whether they believe in a religion or not.



Senior Alex Roberts agreed that learning about things such as religion, although it being controversial, is necessary to gain the ability to understand the beliefs and values of various religions. "Not including stuff like the Bible in the school library is sort of like trying to act as if

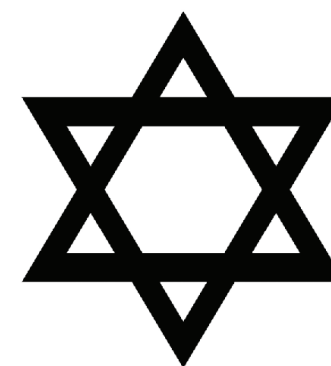
religion doesn't exist at all," he said. Roberts added that he is completely against the idea of being forced to read something religious and being expected to practice it, but it makes sense to him that reading religious material with the intent to try to understand the beliefs of a religion's follower.

Roberts also agreed that he could see the opposite arguments points. "I can see why some people would be against this idea; it could be interpreted that including religious material in school would be a possible attempt at influencing students," he added.

There have been various other schools that allow not just religious books into libraries, but also include courses that deal with religious study, where students are able to read about religious literature and interpret it the way they choose. This gives the opportunity for someone to bridge the cultural divide by allowing students to realize where someone is coming from and learn about one another's differences.

Some people believe that because they do not practice a certain religion means that they should not have to learn about it. This is the main reason why cultural misunderstandings exist, because most people do not care about understanding the opposing argument, and we would rather only learn about what we want to.

Senior Ryan McWhorter said, "I don't really think it matters whether or not there should be religious books in the library. Students have the tools necessary outside of class, such as computers, to look into the topic if they feel passionate enough about it to want to learn about it." Due



to the advanced sources that are available to all students, he believes it is not necessary to go above and beyond to provide students with something they already have the opportunity to obtain if they choose.

Although it is a controversial topic, there are both positive and negative sides to this change. It can be

beneficial to the education of someone who is interested to learn about other religions, but there are logical arguments against this especially considering certain biases that may exist when certain subject matter is taught, and whether or not reading about religion bridges the legal gap that exists between church and state in schools.

Trends that we need to leave behind in 2016

Emily Aiken '20, Feature Editor

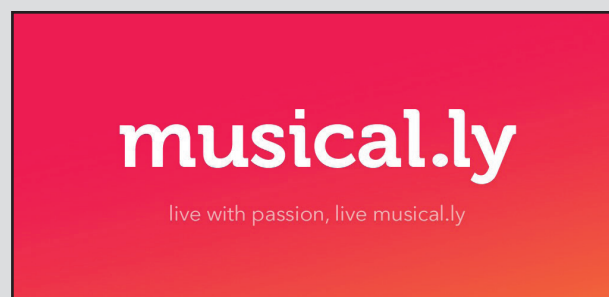
Throughout 2016, there have been many trends that have surfaced on social media. They have become widely popular with everyone, especially teens. Many of these, however, are strange trends that may be getting out of hand.

Water Bottle Flipping

One of the weirdest trends that occurred in 2016 was water bottle flipping. This is one phenomenon that I just cannot understand. So, I went to Google to effectively learn about this trend. After intense research (by intense, I mean five minutes on Google because I got so insanely bored watching high school students flipping water bottles), I realized how major this trend really is, or at least, was. So major in fact, that there is an app and a song about water bottle flipping. The app is called, Water Bottle Flip 2k16. This trend is everywhere. If you were to walk around the school, you may notice water bottles everywhere, as a result of the flipping phenomenon. Freshman Tyler Ritchie said, "It is a talent. I am proud of it." While his admiration is appreciated, this may be a bit over the top.

Musical.ly

If you know any kid around the age of 12, you have probably heard of this one. Musical.ly is an app where kids can lip-sync to any song of their choosing. When I first heard about Musical.ly, I was very confused. Why would people lip-sync to songs that they did not even create? So, I downloaded the app to see for myself. When I first went on the app, I noticed a trend. The people who create the 'music videos' move their camera and make strange hand motions. Wow, I was inspired -- inspired to delete the app and never go back on it again.



Dabbing

There have been many dance trends in 2016, one of them being dabbing. This is a dance move where you bend your elbow, looking into your elbow, while the other arm goes out to the side. The dance move first became popular when the Carolina Panther quarterback, Cam Newton, did this at a football game. Over this past year, everyone on social media has been taking part in this trend, including Hillary Clinton at her speech at the Iowa Caucus. This can be a fun dance move (sometimes), but when everyone is doing it every single second at the most inappropriate times, it can get quite old. "I just do not understand the appeal. Why does everyone dab constantly?," freshman Nicole Young said. This is definitely a trend we need to leave behind.

All in all, 2016 has been an intriguing year with all the new trends popping up on social media. However, I think enough is enough and it is time to leave these trends behind as the year comes to an end.

There may not be 99 problems, but there is at least one

Zayne George '17, Business and Ad Manager

Waking up between 6-7 a.m. almost every morning for four years is already hard enough as it is. In all honesty though, school is not even that bad. There are certain improvements, however, that could be made for a more enjoyable school experience.

There is no reason for students and teachers to be waking up as early as we do just to make it to school on time. School starting at 7:20 a.m. is too early, and creates a problem for students. Students simply cannot function when they are so tired.

Not to mention, that making it to school on time is nearly impossible with all the traffic in the morning. Tardiness becomes a problem. With parents trying to drop their kids off on time, and students driving to find their parking spots, there is always a huge traffic jam in the mornings that causes tardiness and, by proxy, detentions to be administered.

Another dilemma—something small—such as adjusting the temperature in classrooms would make attending school easier. Instead of dressing for the weather outside, students are dressing for how cold the classrooms usually are. There never seems to be a happy medium. And when the rooms are not a comfortable temperature, students usually cannot focus on the teacher.

Now, if you are lucky, the teachers you have do not mind if you snack during class. But what happens when you are hungry and do not have a snack? You can easily walk down to the vending machines to grab something. But the only problem is, you don't have a dollar. Who carries cash around now-a-days anyway? SLHS should replace our vending machines with ones that accept cards. "It would make everything easier for everyone. I have to make sure I have change before coming to school sometimes; it just gets annoying after awhile," senior Rachel Debrincat said.

I think we can all agree that the school lunches are not completely unbearable, but it would definitely be better if we had an open campus during lunches. Living in a small town like South Lyon, there are many food places around town at which we could eat.

While South Lyon is a great school that cares about its students, no system is perfect, and there are always improvements to be made.

How to be a gentleman Five ways to prove chivalry is not dead

Lizzy Farnsworth '17, Sports Editor

1. DO HOLD DOORS OPEN

Ladies love when men hold the door open because it shows a sign of respect. It is the simplest gesture to make anyone's day. Senior Starr Bryan exclaimed, "A gentleman is someone who isn't selfish and goes out of the way to do stuff for others like simply holding the door open."

2. DO GIVE A LADY YOUR JACKET

If you see a lady shivering, or hear her say, "It's cold," be sure to give her your jacket or hoodie. Senior Sarah Stein said, "My boyfriend always lets me steal his hoodies because I'm always cold which is nice." It will show her that you are being observant and genuinely care how she feels.

3. DO DRESS NICELY

One thing that ladies hate is when a man looks like a bum and wears sweat pants or old raggedy clothes. Make sure to at least show that you put some effort into how you look. Sophomore Brooke Bowman explained, "My sister's boyfriend wears sweats everyday, and it is kind of gross." A suit everyday is unnecessary, but some clean jeans or khakis and a nice shirt or sweater is good.

4. DO SHOW INITIATIVE

If a lady asks a question like, "Do these shoes look okay?" or "Which outfit should I wear?," have an actual answer instead of, "I don't care" or "Whatever you like." Junior Lexi Resnick said, "My boyfriend always helps me pick out my outfits." It shows that you have an opinion and care.

5. DO GIVE SINCERE COMPLIMENTS

Do not give comments like 'You look hot' simply because it is not particularly flattering. A real compliment that has a sincere tone will immensely compliment a lady by showing her that you notice real things about her. Examples of this may include saying 'You look amazing', or 'Your smile brightens every room you walk into.' Senior Connor McCusker explained, "I always remind my girlfriend she's beautiful because it makes her feel good, and it makes me feel good."

GSA: A step in the right direction

Michael Martinez '17, Photo Editor

South Lyon High School, with a 92 percent white student population, and an eight percent combination of all other ethnicities, stated by the USN (United States News), is one of the least diverse public schools in Michigan. SLHS is one of the least accepting schools as well. The fact that the GSA (Gay Straight Alliance) is one of the first clubs to promote acceptance we have had up until now is long overdue.

GSA is good for South Lyon students and serves as an eye opener for many that it is time to mature and learn to accept people for who they are, or, at the very least, it is time to simply let others live their life without feeling the need to intervene, oppress, or bully those who have feelings and opinions that are not like theirs.

To be gay or straight is not a choice. It is not by the snap of a finger that people can choose to change his or her gender of attraction. Many have been made fun of for simply being who they are. "Why would someone want to get made fun of or not fit in. No one would choose to be oppressed," Kirsten Seeley, leader of the GSA, said. You cannot choose who you are attracted to, and those who think otherwise are ignorant and intolerant.

Even those who may be accepting and want change in our school, often times refuse to stand up for what they believe and choose to jokingly make fun of people just to fit in or be funny. They might be scared to talk about it and decide to keep quiet and not say anything about the matter, like it is not even there because they are afraid of their own



peers, or perhaps afraid of not fitting in because they support human rights and general decency.

The actuality of this situation is that the only problem is truly society. The kids who think they are cool because they can rip a GSA sign off the wall and throw it on the ground are the problem. The desire for some people to want to destroy someone's effort to help others and make everyone feel safe and more accepted is cruel. While some people do it as a joke and others do it out of the hatred in their hearts, either way, a problem exists.

Senior Bridget Donahue said that all they want the GSA to do is make those who might not always feel accepted, feel safe. And any teenager who purposefully does not want someone else to feel safe or fit is mean and shrouded in insecurity; those who are concerned with the way someone else lives their life should find a way to get their own life, and realize it has absolutely no bearing on their own.

Due to the lack diversity, and by proxy, sometimes the lack of acceptance in this school, the GSA is a great step in the right direction for South Lyon. Hopefully, all the younger generations will help the club grow and show that the GSA is just a group of people that are peaceful, positive, and its purpose is just to see is all other people grow, feel accepted, learn to accept others, create understanding, and get along in a judgment free school.

Photo courtesy of Wikipedia Commons user Gilbert Baker

Time is ticking and not slowing down

Alexandria Lane '17, Copy Editor

Time is a valuable thing. In the world today, everybody is desperate for more time: more time to sleep, more time to work, and more time to spend with friends and family. Nobody likes wasting time; however, today's school system has no value for this type of time. They place kids in classes that are nonessential to their career path. Why? Why can we not leave school early to use our time more effectively?

The number of credits a high school student needs to graduate is 23. Most high school seniors enter their final year with anywhere from 18 to 20 credits. So, why is it that we have to remain in school a full day when we do not even need those classes?

Seniors in high school should be allowed to take a reduced schedule, as long as they have their graduation requirements filled. This seems like a better option for students rather than filling their schedule up with classes that they do not need, and they have no interest in. There are many more productive things students could be doing with their time.

Students, for example, would have many more hours in the day to work. They could go to their jobs after they leave school. This would allow them to save up for the next step in their education: college. "We are kind of now at the level where we need to be more focused on a college type schedule where there is some type of leniency in the schedule," senior Michael O'Connor said. He added, "As many are headed to college, it is logical that we should start getting used to dictating our own schedule, taking classes that pertain to our interests, and leaving more time to focus on those classes, work, AP courses, etc."

Leaving part way through the day could also help kids with the classes they actually need to be taking. It is very difficult to balance school, sports, a job, family time, time with friends and just time to one's self when we are stuck here until 2:13 everyday. "I barely have time for homework," Samantha Bagwell said. "I get home from work, and I'm too exhausted to concentrate on my school work." It is difficult to try and retain the information you learned in the beginning of the day after a full day at school and a busy day at work. Getting out of school midday would give students more time to do homework.

As long as students are able to fulfil their graduation requirements, having a reduced schedule can only benefit them entirely. Time waits for no one; we need to stop wasting it when we have the opportunity to be using it so much more efficiently.

Where are our school dances?

Riley Smith '17, Social Media Manager/Website Director

Homecoming and prom are the only two school-wide after school dances each year that students will have to look back on after they put in their four years here at South Lyon High School.

Meanwhile, our cross town rivals at East have a Winterfest, Sadie Hawkins, and 'The Experience dance'—a dance where the students dress in all white and get neon paint thrown on them as the students themselves get to DJ. "Our dances are a great time. I'm really grateful that we have such a variety it makes for a lot of fun," SLEHS senior Paige Reyes said. Even the middle schoolers have more activity nights than SLHS has dances.

The question lies in why? "I've always heard it was because we dance inappropriately at homecoming," senior Ben Douglas said. If that is the case, however, then why not explain that it is our actions causing this and how we can fix it in further detail, or perhaps crack down on those who are not following the rules. Perhaps enforcing the use of wristbands and kicking those out who cannot abide by the set regulation would change the dance culture or expectations. Our administrators should find a way to punish those who are deciding not to treat these events with respect in a way that does not negatively affect the entire student body.

High school dances mean a lot to many people after graduation. Memories are created on those nights that we should be able to look back on forever. It is almost sad that we are left with only one school wide dance a year for the majority of the school, and only two if you are a junior or a senior.

Not only would more dances help the students build better relationships with their peers, gain a stronger sense of school pride, and give us more ways to have fun as an entire school, but it could also financially benefit the school. Ticket sales could help raise money for the school to pay for things like supplies and decorations. We as students are not asking for anything over the top, fancy, or expensive, just a Friday or Saturday evening spent in the commons, dressed up, and having fun with our classmates, so that we have those memories on which to look back.

It is understandable that our administrators cannot allow inappropriate behavior, but we should not let those few rule breakers ruin these experiences for the entire school. There has to be some way to make it work. After all, there are so many schools in our